

SYSTEM ALL RUN DOWN.

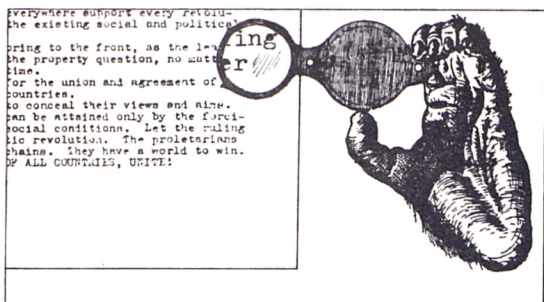
1.

When Inspector Fitzly and Sergeant Trim arrived, the deputy minister's body had already been removed from the boudoir. Fitzly was relieved, Trim a trifle crestfallen. What clues there were were put in plastic bags: — a typewritten statement from the assassins, full of the usual leftwing drivel and promise of more mayhem;

— a shell casing;

— some threads disengaged from the broken window.

But no fingerprints and no witnesses.



2.

The typewriter turned out to be an Olivetti Lettera 22 with several wonky characters; the paper was a common 22 lb. bond. The casing came from an untraceable 22. So Fitzly 'phoned down to the numerology lab. Then he 'phoned upstairs to enquire if manpower was available to examine every typewriter in Greater London. Then there was a knock at the door.

3.

"Come in."

"Detective Dwiggins, Internal Affairs. You'd best come with me, sir. Trim's in custody. 22 bloody burglaries, you two... he's told all. Forget that murder case, you're suspended."

-- M. Kasper

Florence MA